

**U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Domestic Names Committee**

Seven Hundred and Fourth Meeting
Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., Room 7000A
December 11, 2008 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Robert Bewley	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Douglas Caldwell	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Jon Campbell	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Michael Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Bonnie Gallahan	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office
Robert Hiatt	Library of Congress
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
William Logan	Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard)
Curtis Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey) (Chairman; not voting)
Michael Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Douglas Vandegrift	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Meredith Westington	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio

Lou Yost, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names/Domestic Names Committee

Staff

Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Keith Bridge, Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

1. Opening

The meeting opened at 9:30 a.m. Westington introduced Keith Bridge, an intern with NOAA's Department of Library Sciences. Mr. Bridge is involved in two ongoing NOAA contracts, one to scan Coast Survey charts at the Library of Congress' Geography & Map Division and restructure NOAA's Historical Map and Chart Collection, and the other to scan NOAA's Special Reports on Geographic Names from the 1940s and 1950s.

2. Minutes of the 703rd Meeting

The minutes of the 703rd meeting, held November 13, 2008, were approved with two corrections. Under Item 2, the word "forth" should be spelled "fourth," while under 3.2, "biannual" should be corrected to "biennial."

3. Communications and Reports

3.1 Chairman's Report (Kanalley)

No report.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

The full BGN will hold its next quarterly meeting on Tuesday, January 6th, 2009 at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston. The agenda is expected to include a discussion on the leadership of the Foreign Names Committee, although it should be noted that the Tiger Team's report has not yet been released.

The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names will hold its next biennial meeting in May 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names will meet at USGS in Reston on Friday, January 23rd.

3.3 Communications Committee Report (Westington)

The Committee met on December 3rd at the State Department. The attendees continue to prepare for various forthcoming geospatial events in which the BGN intends to participate, including the ESRI Federal User Conference in Washington in mid-February and the AAG Annual Meeting in Las Vegas in March. An abstract and poster are being prepared for the Coastal Geotools Conference to be held in Myrtle Beach in March.

Caldwell is preparing a "slide deck" of BGN material that can be used in future publications and presentations. The members were asked to forward to him any items of interest.

Kanalley asked the members if there might be interest in attending the 2009 U.S. Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management Geospatial Conference to be held at the Snowbird Conference Center outside Salt Lake City, Utah, from April 27 to May 1.

Kanalley and Gallahan were asked to elaborate on their suggestion at last month's meeting that the BGN have a greater presence at Tribal GIS conferences. They responded that it was their intention to encourage presentations on the BGN and GNIS at future meetings, as well as to produce an information pamphlet on geographic names issues of interest to American Indians.

The next meeting of the Communications Committee is tentatively scheduled for early February at NOAA.

3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

Yost asked the Committee if the February 2009 meeting of the DNC should be rescheduled to take place in conjunction with the ESRI Federal User Conference at the Washington Convention

Center. It was agreed to continue the practice and Caldwell volunteered to procure a meeting room.

3.5 Staff Report (Runyon)

The DNC has received a proposal to name an unnamed lake in New York, Rain Dance Pond. Runyon reminded the members that the same name was submitted by the same proponents in 2004, but it was rejected citing a concern that the name had commercial implications (the proponents' business was named "Rain Dance") and also because of its implications within the American Indian community. The staff advised the proponent that without new evidence the DNC would not revisit the case.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Yost)

Yost recently attended a meeting of *The National Map* Products and Services leads at USGS in Denver. Discussions covered various aspects of data integration, including the integration and cooperation between GNIS, the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), and the National Elevation Dataset. Kanalley asked who the NHD stewards are, to which Yost replied they are primarily State agency employees. He indicated that it is presumed that the majority of Forest Service data is already incorporated into NHD. Kanalley reported that she had received an inquiry regarding the naming process from the Forest Service hydrographic data help desk manager, and was pleased to report that the hydrographic data stewards now have incorporated procedures to correct names in GNIS as part of their helpdesk information tool set. Bewley noted that the BLM is the steward for NHD data on BLM lands, but suggested more training is needed for those who are participating in the effort. Kanalley noted the FS is also the NHD steward for NHD data on National Forest System Lands but that there are areas of overlap with the states. It was agreed it would be appropriate to include a session on GNIS maintenance at the aforementioned USFS-BLM Conference.

Yost reported that he had contacted the Corps of Engineers to inquire whether the latest public version of the National Inventory of Dams had been forwarded to TechniGraphicS, Inc., which is responsible for collecting geospatial data for many parts of the U.S. Caldwell offered to follow up.

One of the future updates to the GNIS Public Query page will provide the ability to overlay topographic map boundaries on the Google Maps view. A demonstration of this new capability is scheduled for the USGS Geographic Names Office on Friday, December 12th. Kanalley expressed an interest in the new capability, which led to a discussion as to whether GNIS data could be retrievable by National Forest. Caldwell suggested a tool is needed to allow for the display of large geographic features that cross multiple maps.

4. Docket Review (Runyon)

Please refer to the attached Docket for a description of each proposal. For new names approved at this meeting, the newly-assigned GNIS Feature ID (FID) has been noted following the name.

I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Change Squaw Flat (FID 777131) to Pikuni Flat, Montana (Review List 399)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name change.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

North Bench, California (Review List 393) (FID 2514788)

The Committee discussed whether this name applies to a natural feature (a bench) or to a community. After reviewing the findings and recommendation of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names, a motion was made and seconded to deny the proposal as submitted and to approve North Bench as the name of a populated place

Vote: 11 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast in the belief that the name could be applied to both types of features, citing sufficient evidence that in addition to the community, there is a discernible bench at the location identified by the proponent.

Change Wycamp Creek (FID 1616853) to Spirit Creek, and change Wycamp Lake (FID 1616854) to Spirit Lake, Michigan (Review List 394)

A motion was made and seconded to defer a decision on these proposals, citing a request by the member from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for additional time to investigate the use of the existing names in recently uncovered FWS report.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against

0 abstentions

A motion was made and seconded to consider the next three proposals as a group.

Vote: 11 in favor
0 against
1 abstention

Change Squaw Creek (FID 791372) to Sih-mem Creek, change Squaw Gulch (FID 791382) to Sin-pul-stu-weh Gulch, change Squaw Creek (FID 791370) to Sin-tin-tin-em-ska Creek, Montana (Review List 396)

A motion was made and seconded to approve these three name changes.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Narrows of Hans Creek, West Virginia (Review List 394) (FID 2514789)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name, citing county government support and evidence that name was geographically appropriate.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Scott Hollow, West Virginia (Review List 394) (FID 2514790)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Taggart Branch (FID 1553171) to Tackett Branch, West Virginia (Review List 394)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this name change, citing the State Names Authority's objections and a lack of a compelling reason to change a name published on Federal maps since 1921.

Vote: 6 in favor
6 against
0 abstentions

Following the tie vote, the Chairman cast his vote in opposition to the motion, thus approving the change.

III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Godfrey Mountain, Alaska (Review List 399) (FID 2514791)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Squaw Buttes** (FID 777118) to **Duckhead Buttes**, Montana (Review List 399)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name change.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Melander Hill, Wisconsin (Review List 389) (FID 2514792)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

IV. Revised Decisions

Change **Thibodeaux Mountain** (FID 1410855) (BGN 1969) to **Thibedeau Mountain**, Alaska (Review List 398)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this spelling change.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Piper Lake, Alaska (Review List 399) (FID 2514793)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Rock Dam Creek, Minnesota (Review List 397) (FID 2514794)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Orr Hollow Creek, Missouri (Review List 397) (FID 2514795)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 12 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

5. Location and Time of Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m. The next meeting of the Domestic Names Committee will be held January 8, 2009, at the Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., at 9:30 a.m., Room 7000A.

(signed) *Louis A. Yost*

Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED
(signed) *Curtis Loy*

Curtis Loy, Chairman
Domestic Names Committee

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
December 2008**

I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Change **Squaw Flat** (FID 777131) to **Pikuni Flat**, Montana
(Blackfeet Indian Reservation)
(Review List 399)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=48.9127612&p_longi=-113.1370389&fid=777131

This proposal is to change officially the name of Squaw Flat, an 11 km (7 mi) long flat located on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Glacier County, to Pikuni Flat. It was submitted by the Montana House Bill 412 “Squaw Name Change” Committee on behalf of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, which believes the existing name is derogatory and should be changed. The proposed name is reportedly used to refer to the Blackfeet people of the Blackfeet Confederacy. The Glacier County Commissioners submitted a letter in support of the proposed change to Pikuni Flat, and the Montana State Names Authority recommends approval as well.

The stream that flows along the southeastern side of the flat was renamed by the BGN in 2003 from Squaw Creek to Hagerty Creek. A second proposal by the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, to change the name of Squaw Buttes, also on the Blackfeet Reservation, to Duckhead Buttes, is listed under Category III below.

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

North Bench, California
(Review List 393)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=34.06&p_longi=-117.02972

This proposal is to make official the name North Bench for a geographic area of approximately seven square miles in size, in southwestern San Bernardino County, approximately 16 km (10 mi) east of Redlands. The proponent, a resident of Yucaipa, reports that the locally-used name refers generally to the relatively flat area located east of the Crafton Hills, south of the San Bernardino Mountains, and north of Oak Glen Creek. A search of the Internet reveals several references to the name, including the Yucaipa Municipal Code, which describes North Bench as “an area of large, estate-type residential use. This is compatible with the transitional landscape theme.” The city’s 2005 Hazard Mitigation Plan also referred to the proposed name, stating,

“Through erosion, each of these major tributaries [Wilson Creek and Wildwood Creek] have created elevation changes adjacent to these creeks and are sometimes referred to as “benches.” These “bench” areas give a character to the City, and the entire northern section of Yucaipa is referred to as the “North Bench.” The Director of Community Development for the City of Yucaipa is in support of the proposal, noting, “[it is the] common name already in use.”

There has been some question as to whether the name applies to a natural feature or an administrative area (populated place). The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names voted not to support the proposal, stating, “Unanimous vote recommending disapproval based on the lack of official evidence indicating the existence of a discernable “bench” feature relative to the site and insufficient evidence of local usage for the geographic feature. Suggest that this be an administrative name proposal.” When asked to clarify the situation, the proponent responded, “North Bench is a geographic/geologic feature that, out in the desert would be called an alluvial slope. It is delineated on the south by a usually dry wash coming down from Oak Glen to our east. The name is also use[d] by the local paper and the city as a neighborhood indicator.” Several real estate listings also refer to properties “in the desirable North Bench area of Yucaipa.”

A copy of this proposal was forwarded to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and to the Morongo Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians, both of which are Federally-recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue. GNIS lists fifteen geographic features in California classified as “bench” and named as such. Three of these are in San Bernardino County.

Change **Wycamp Creek** (FID 1616853) to **Spirit Creek**, and change **Wycamp Lake** (FID 1616854) to **Spirit Lake**, Michigan
(Review List 394)

Stream: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=45.6511202&p_longi=-85.0183939&fid=1616853

Lake: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=45.6605651&p_longi=-84.9656141&fid=1616854

These two proposals were submitted by a former resident of Alanson, to change officially the names of a stream and a lake in Emmet County that are currently named Wycamp Creek and Wycamp Lake. These names have appeared on Federal maps since 1958, with the stream having been named for the lake. The lake’s name is presumed to date from the mid-nineteenth century, when Father Johann Bernard Weikamp (1818-1889) purchased land adjacent to the lake for the establishment of a Franciscan convent. During his 40 years in the area, Father Weikamp accumulated over 2,000 acres, much of which surrounded the lake that soon became known as Weikamp’s Lake (it is not known when or why the spelling evolved to Wycamp).

The proponent reported that prior to the first Franciscan settlement in 1835, there was a long association between the lake and the indigenous peoples of northern Michigan, specifically the Odawa Indian Tribe, for whom the lake served as a historical meeting site. The Odawa referred to the area between Little Traverse Bay and Mackinaw City as Tching-Ga-Bang, or “heartland” and reportedly they knew the lake as Spirit Lake. The proposal notes that the land was acquired

“in exchange for a promise to build a church and a school there for the Indians – which was never built.” Further, “Whatever the white man calls the area, it is still Tching-Ga-Bang to the Odawa and the inland lake of their heartland will always be Spirit Lake.” The stream is 2.4 km (1.5 mi) long and heads in Mackinaw State Forest before flowing west to enter Lake Michigan.

The minutes of a June 2005 Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MI DNR) meeting included a reference to a request (by this same proponent) that Weikamp Lake [sic] be reopened to allow camping. All other State and Federal sources use the “Wycamp” spelling.

The Cross Village Township Supervisors and the Emmet County Board of Commissioners both submitted letters objecting to the proposed change; the county cited a lack of “a reason to change a name with historic values.” The Bliss Township Board of Supervisors did not respond to two requests for comment.

A copy of these proposals was forwarded to the following Federally-recognized Tribes: the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians, the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Chippewa-Cree Indians of the Rocky Boy’s Reservation, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Delaware Tribe of Indians, the Delaware Tribe of Western Oklahoma, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, the Hannahville Indian Community, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas, the Kickapoo Tribe of Indians, the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, the Little Traverse Bay Bands Of Odawa Indians, the Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians of Michigan, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation, the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians of Minnesota, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Shawnee Tribe, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, and the Wyandotte Nation.

Of these, the Peoria Tribe responded that it had no opinion on the issue, while the Little Traverse Bay Bands (LTBB) submitted a letter of support. The lack of response from the remaining tribes is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The LTBB reports that the name Spirit Lake is “very important to [our] tribe,” adding, “The entire lake and creek are located within our tribe’s [former] reservation as described in the 1855 Treaty of Detroit. This area is used for ceremonial purposes today and has been used dating back countless generations preceding European contact. Activities such as gathering natural medicines and other resources, fasting, council meetings and ceremonial practices all have been and continue to be pursued on and along the shores of Spirit Lake.” The LTBB Chairman added, “I have spoken with the Chairman of the Emmet County Commission recently and have found out that he was on the losing side of a 5-2 vote to oppose the name change. While we respect the concerns of the County Board of Commissions we never-the-less will persist in our request and support for the renaming.”

The MI DNR/Resource Management Division, when asked to comment on the issue, responded that it also does not endorse the name change. The DNR believes “it would create confusion for the majority of users.” The DNR also learned that the original proponent of these name changes is now deceased, and this has been confirmed; he died in December 2007. The Michigan State

Names Authority has been asked on several occasions to comment on the proposal, but no input has been received. The most recent letter to the State suggested that if no response was received, the BGN would presume the State was in agreement with the recommendation of the DNR.

With the exception of the lake and stream, there are no other geographic features in Michigan known to be named “Wycamp.” Elsewhere in the State there are two lakes named Spirit Lake and one stream named Spirit Creek; all are on the Upper Peninsula.

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 791372) to **Sih-mem Creek**, Montana
(Lewis and Clark National Forest)
(Review List 396)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=46.9738889&p_longi=-110.7011111&fid=791372

This is one of several proposals submitted by the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribal Council to eliminate “Squaw” names throughout the State of Montana. The name Squaw Creek applies to a 1 km (0.6 mi) long stream located in the Little Belt Mountains of southeastern Cascade County, and within the Lewis and Clark National Forest. The origin of the stream’s current name has not been determined; the earliest map on which it has been located is the USGS topographic map published in 1961. The proposed replacement name, Sih-mem Creek, is of Salish origin and according to the proponent means “woman.” This proposed change has the support of the Montana House Bill 412 “Squaw Name Change” Advisory Committee and the American Indian Caucus of the Montana State Legislature. However, the Cascade County Commissioners do not endorse the change; this information was provided by the State Names Authority, but no details were included. The State Names Authority supports the proposal. The U.S. Forest Service has no opinion, since the stream flows through a private in-holding within Forest boundaries.

Change **Squaw Gulch** (FID 791382) to **Sin-pul-stu-weh Gulch**, Montana
(Review List 396)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=46.5110394&p_longi=-112.9650504&fid=791382

This is another of the proposals submitted by the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribal Council. The name Squaw Gulch applies to a 3.9 km (2.4 mi) long valley in southwestern Powell County, just outside the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. The origin of the valley’s current name has not been determined; the earliest map on which the name has been located is the USGS topographic map published in 1967. The proposed replacement name, Sin-pul-stu-weh Gulch, is the Anglicization of the Salish word for battleground and literally means “Place where people kill each other.” This proposed change has the support of the Montana House Bill 412 “Squaw Name Change” Advisory Committee and the American Indian Caucus of the Montana State Legislature. The Powell County Commissioners do not endorse the change; this information was provided by the State Names Authority, but no details were included. The State Names Authority supports the proposal.

Change **Squaw Creek** (FID 791370) to **Sin-tin-tin-em-ska Creek**, Montana
(Review List 396)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=46.7352778&p_longi=-114.0636111&fid=791370

The current name **Squaw Creek** applies to a 15 km (9.3 mi) long tributary of the Bitterroot River. The origin of the stream's name has not been determined; the earliest map on which the name has been located is the USGS topographic map published in 1967. The proposed replacement name, **Sin-tin-tin-em-ska Creek**, is the Anglicization of the "old Salish placename for the area where this creek flows and means reining-back-your-horse." The proponent adds "the name's origin reaches back to the time when the Salish people, based in the Bitterroot Valley, would conduct buffalo hunts or raids east of the mountains. During their return journey, the people would reach this area and their horses would know they were almost home – and so they would start straining against the reins." This proposed change has the support of the Montana House Bill 412 "Squaw Name Change" Advisory Committee and the American Indian Caucus of the Montana State Legislature. Both the Ravalli County Commissioners and the Missoula County Commissioners responded that they do not endorse the change; this information was provided by the State Names Authority, but no details were included. The State Names Authority supports the proposal.

Narrows of Hans Creek, Scott Hollow,
change **Taggart Branch** (FID 1553171) to **Tackett Branch**, West Virginia
(Review List 394)

The following three proposals are among twelve submitted by a historian and former president of the Monroe County Commission, to make official names reported to be in local and/or historical use. The features in question are located throughout Monroe County and include two that also extend into neighboring Virginia. These proposals have the approval of the Monroe County Commission, the Monroe County Historical Society, and the Monroe County Tourism Director. However, none are supported by the West Virginia State Names Authority (SNA). The SNA states, "I believe the proponent has not provided sufficient justification for approving the proposed changes." Among the reasons cited, he notes that the BGN does not encourage changes in official geographic names; he believes having the approval of three County Commissioners, a Director of Tourism, and the County Historical Society falls "well short of strong public support," and considering the sparse population of the area, "I would not think that this would qualify as "Well Established Local Usage". He also questions the accuracy of the historical volume cited by the proponent and whether it should be relied upon "to overturn the historic usage of place names and locations on USGS maps." He suggests the proponent "has not clearly identified any problems the alleged misspelled names, wrong locations, and unnamed features have caused, or how these unnamed problems would be resolved by his various proposals." Finally, after presenting the cases at a recent State surveyors' conference, he believes that "mandating changes to existing USGS Maps, Published County Reports, Published Springs Books, Gazetteers, Tax Maps, Flood Maps, The WV State Addressing and Mapping System, GNIS, and numerous other published reports, maps and public records....would create

problems for engineers, surveyors, geologists, hydrologists, environmentalists, photogrammetrists, and others who constantly use this published information.” The remaining proposals, to apply new commemorative names to four features, to change the spelling and/or generic terms of four other names, and to amend the application of one other, are awaiting final review by the SNA and/or the U.S. Forest Service.

Narrows of Hans Creek, West Virginia

(Review List 394)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=37.49866&p_longi=-80.69074

This proposal is to make official the name Narrows of Hans Creek for a narrow, steep-sided, winding gap through which Hans Creek flows. The proponent reports the name has been in local use for over 75 years. The origin of the name Hans Creek is not known, but it was mentioned in an Ellison family will dated 1791 (a 1785 survey had referred to it as Hands Creek). Google Maps labels a road located in the vicinity of the gap, “The Narrows of Old Hans Creek Road.” According to GNIS, there is just one other gap in the State with the generic term “Narrows”; it is located in Marshall County.

Scott Hollow, West Virginia

(Review List 394)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=37.68997&p_longi=-80.56002

The name Scott Hollow is proposed to be made official for a geographic feature described as “elongated [and] bowl-shaped...with no outlet; drained by subsurface streams.” According to *A History of Monroe County, West Virginia* (Morton, 1917), James Scott, a native of Rockbridge County, Virginia, moved to Monroe County and died in the vicinity of Sinks Grove in 1828. It is not known exactly when or how the feature came to be known locally as Scott Hollow, but the proponent states the name has been in local use for at least fifty years and that the road that runs through the center of the basin is called Scott Hollow Road. Scott Hollow Cave is also located nearby. There are two other features in West Virginia named Scott Hollow, but neither is in Monroe County.

Change **Taggart Branch** (FID 1553171) to **Tackett Branch**, West Virginia

(Review List 394)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=37.5651233&p_longi=-80.5511799&fid=1553171

Although the name Taggart Branch has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1921, the proponent reports that the stream was named for Nimrod Tackett (ca.1765-1837), a member of the Virginia militia who settled in the area and owned land along the stream prior to the American Revolution. Tackett’s name is included in a listing of Monroe County property owners in 1799, and another online history of the county confirms that he owned land in the vicinity. The Monroe County highway map of 1986 labeled the stream Tackitt Branch.

III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Godfrey Mountain, Alaska

(Review List 399)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=58.1200000&p_longi=-153.082777777778

This proposal, submitted by the Chief Administration Officer of the Afognak Native Corporation Culture Committee, would apply the new name Godfrey Mountain to an unnamed 642 m (2,105 ft) summit on Afognak Island. The name would honor Glenn G. Godfrey (1949-2002), the first Alaska Native to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety and Director of the Alaska State Troopers. He was instrumental in starting the Village Public Safety Officer Program and spent significant time at Muskogee Bay. He was also a shareholder in the Afognak Native Corporation and a board member and chair of Koniag, Inc. The City of Ouzinke; the City of Port Lions; Koniag, Inc.; the Native Village of Afognak; and the Alaska Historical Commission (AHC), which serves as the State Geographic Names Authority, all support this proposal. The AHC also contacted the Kodiak Island Borough, the Ouzinkie Native Corporation, the Ouzinkie Tribal Council, and the Port Lions Traditional Tribal Council, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

Change **Squaw Buttes** (FID 777118) to **Duckhead Buttes**, Montana

(Blackfeet Indian Reservation)

(Review List 399)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglemap?p_lat=48.5341667&p_longi=-112.5080556&fid=777118

This proposal is to change officially the name of Squaw Buttes, a summit located on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Glacier County, to Duckhead Buttes (the application was submitted and originally review listed as Duckhead Butte; a change to the plural generic term was affirmed by the proponent). It was submitted by the Montana House Bill 412 “Squaw Name Change” Committee on behalf of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, which believes the existing name is derogatory and should be changed. The proposed name is intended to honor Annabell Bad Marriage Duckhead (1907-1934), the grandmother of the present-day landowner, who acquired the original Indian allotment on the land. The Glacier County Commissioners submitted a letter in support of the proposal, and the Montana State Names Authority recommends approval as well.

Melander Hill, Wisconsin

(Review List 389)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=44.8561111111111&p_longi=-92.6963888888889

This proposal is to make official the name Melander Hill for an unnamed summit in the Town of Clifton in the northwest corner of Pierce County. The proponent claims the name has been in local use for one hundred years, ever since Albert Emil Melander (born 1873 in Minnesota) and

his wife Jennie acquired property and built a house on the western slope of the hill. A 1998 newspaper article on the historical and “lost towns” of Pierce County mentioned “Melander Hill,” although it appears to refer to a community, rather than the name of a summit. The Town of Clifton Board of Supervisors and the Pierce County Board of Supervisors both submitted letters of support for this proposal, and the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council recommends approval as well. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Prairie Island Indian Community, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Indian Community, and the St. Croix Chippewa Indian Tribe, all of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

IV. Revised Decisions

Change Thibodeaux Mountain (FID 1410855) (BGN 1969) to Thibedeau Mountain, Alaska
(Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve)
(Review List 398)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=68.284722&p_longi=-150.093611

This proposal is to change the spelling of the name of Thibodeaux Mountain to Thibedeau Mountain. The name is applied to a 2,298 m (7,539 ft) summit in North Slope Borough, and within the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. The name Thibodeaux Mountain was made official by a BGN decision in 1969, and has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1971. The proposed change was submitted by a family member, who reports that the feature was named for “Jules Thibedeau, a legendary bush pilot who earned the nickname “Old Walk-Away” due to his many incidents of downing his plane and requiring massive air searches. Jules and another passenger were killed in a plane accident 5 miles north of the summit which was later named in his memory.” The proponent notes that the honoree’s surname was misspelled in the 1969 application and should be corrected to Thibedeau. Later correspondence between the proponent and the Alaska Geographic Names Board revealed that the honoree’s first name was actually spelled Juel.

The 1969 BGN file reports that the proposal was submitted by a resident of Berkeley, California, in an effort to honor “Jules Thibodeaux, a French-Eskimo bush pilot who crashed in the area of this peak in 1965.” It is not clear whether, prior to the 1969 decision, anyone consulted with the honoree’s family regarding the spelling of his name.

The government of North Slope Borough did not respond to the Alaska Board’s request for input. However, the Arctic Slope Native Association, Inc., the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, and the Village of Anaktuvuk Pass all submitted letters of support for the proposed change. The National Park Service and the Alaska State Board also recommend approval of the change to Thibedeau Mountain.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Piper Lake, Alaska (Review List 399)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=61.502222&p_longi=-150.165833

This proposal would apply the new name Piper Lake to an unnamed 62-acre lake in Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 23 km (14 mi) southwest of the community of Houston. The proponent reports that he is the only private property owner on the lake, with the majority of the land being owned by the borough. He claims the proposed name has come into local use because the Piper Super Cub float plane is typically used to land on this lake. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the City of Houston, and the Alaska State Geographic Names Board all recommend approval of the proposed name. The State Board also forwarded the proposal to the following Native Alaska groups, but no response was received which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue: the Cook Inlet Region, Inc.; Eklutna, Inc.; Knikatu, Inc.; Alexander Creek Corporation, Inc.; the Montana Creek Native Association; the Caswell Native Association; and the Big Lake Community Council.

Rock Dam Creek, Minnesota (Review List 397)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=46.23917&p_longi=-92.62583

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=46.2671&p_longi=-92.55542

This proposal is to apply the new name Rock Dam Creek to an unnamed 8 km (5 mi) long tributary of Sand Creek in Pine County. It was submitted by the Minnesota Geographic Names Authority on behalf of two residents of Bruno, who report that the name would be an appropriate way to recognize the existence along the stream of a small rock dam that was used during the logging era of the late 1800's. They add, "Many logging artifacts have been found in the vicinity." The Pine County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution in support of the name, and the Minnesota Geographic Names Authority endorses the proposal as well.

A copy of the proposal was sent to the following Federally-recognized Tribes: the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Fond du Lac Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians of Minnesota, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan, and the White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

Only the Fond du Lac Band responded to the initial request, noting that the proposed name in Ojibwe would be "Assin Zibiins." The BGN asked the Tribe whether it wished to submit a

formal counter-proposal for that name (with or without the generic “Creek”) but no response was received. A follow-up inquiry revealed that the Fond du Lac, in consultation with several Tribal elders of the Mille Lacs Band, were attempting to determine if the stream might already have an indigenous name. After learning there was no obvious existing name and deciding not to submit the Ojibwe translation as a counter-proposal, both Tribes agreed that the BGN should proceed with its vote on Rock Dam Creek.

According to GNIS, there are no other streams in Minnesota named specifically “Rock Dam,” although there is a dam and an associated park in Traverse County named White Rock Dam and White Rock Dam State Wildlife Management Area, respectively.

Orr Hollow Creek, Missouri
(Mark Twain National Forest)
(Review List 397)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=37.45103&p_longi=-90.58215

Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=37.46444&p_longi=-90.61889

This proposal, submitted by the Missouri Board on Geographic Names (MOBGN) on behalf of a member of the Missouri Stream Team, would apply the new name Orr Hollow Creek to an unnamed tributary of Marble Creek in Iron County. The 4.5 km (2.8 mi) long stream lies within the Mark Twain National Forest. The proposed name recognizes the fact that the road that runs alongside the stream is already named Orr Hollow Road. Further evidence suggests the road was named for Martha Orr (d. 1892), a longtime resident of the area. The Iron County Commissioners, the MOBGN, and the U.S. Forest Service all recommend approval of this proposal. A copy was forwarded to the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, the Osage Nation, and the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.